

The Land Line

Traditional Communication in a High-tech World

Smooth Bromegrass (*Bromus inermis*)

Smooth bromegrass is native to Europe and Asia. Being introduced to the United States in 1884, it has now become naturalized to the temperate regions of the United States and adjacent areas of Canada. It is most common in the portion of this region that receives more than 14 inches of annual rainfall.

Smooth bromegrass is a leafy, tall-growing, cool season, sod-forming perennial. Spikelets containing seed are borne in panicles which open with maturity. It has a characteristic W-shaped constriction at approximately the midpoint of the leaf blade. Smooth brome spreads vegetatively by rhizomes and is easily propagated by seed.

Smooth bromegrass is one of the most commonly seeded hayland forage species in central and eastern North Dakota. The importation of seed from northern Europe coupled with successful seed production in Canada and the Dakotas resulted in its early use and later dominance. It begins growing in mid-April, maturing in June and July. Smooth bromegrass is a productive winter hardy grass that is slow to recover after cutting. It can survive during periods of drought and temperate extremes, and is easily forced into dormancy during dry summer periods, with dormancy being broken with the return of cool days and fall precipitation. It provides nutritious forage for livestock, remaining palatable late into maturity. Old stands of smooth bromegrass become sod bound, which reduces productivity, but this reduction in productivity can be corrected with the application of nitrogen fertilizer or growing it in combination with alfalfa. Its vigorous rhizomes form a dense protective sod which resists water erosion, making it valuable for erosion control where it is used extensively to protect roadsides and steep road cuts.

The extensive use and aggressive nature of smooth bromegrass has resulted in its undesired frequent invasion of native rangeland. Smooth bromegrass should be grazed in May and June when it is most nutritious and productive. Such early-season grazing use would help to limit its



Smooth Bromegrass

Range Camp Scholarship Winner



Alan Maier from Elgin, North Dakota received this year's State Land Department Range Camp Scholarship. Alan is the son of Jim and Nancy Maier. The Maiers lease school trust land in Grant County.

Alan will be a senior at Grant County High School in Elgin this fall. He is active in football, basketball, FFA, and Environthon. During a camp interview, Allen stated that his camp experience had been great and that he hoped to put what he had learned to good use at FFA range judging contests.

Funds for this scholarship were provided by Land Department employees - no state money was used.

Fall Weed Spraying

Planning fall spraying? The recommendation for fall application of Plateau has a target application date of September 15 and the rate is 8-12 ounces per acre + 1 quart of MSO/acre. Plateau is another option for control of leafy spurge in the fall, however if you used Tordon during the summer of 2005, do not apply Plateau this fall. Weed Boards, County Extension and our staff have more information on these options.

Finding Canada thistle? Tordon + 2,4D or Curtail are two commonly recommended chemical formulations. The Land Department implemented a new Canada thistle cost-share program two years ago. This program pays up to 100% on grassland, depending on your situation. If you have not cost-shared for Canada thistle with us in previous years, please call Jerry at 328-2800 with an estimate of your anticipated fall spraying costs.

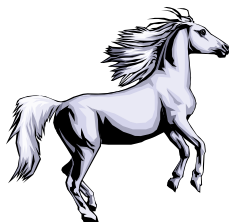


Remember, the cost-share application deadline is **September 30**. If you're not able to complete your paperwork because of late September spraying, please call Jerry to request an extension. **Applications that come in after September 30, and have not been given an extension, may not be paid.**

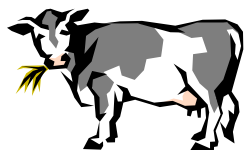
What Does "N" Mean?

If you are attending one of our many fall auctions coming up in October you may notice an "N" after the minimum price in our ad. The "N" signifies this tract has patches of one or more of the 12 noxious weeds specified in state law. Land Department leases requires that noxious weeds be controlled and the "N" alerts potential bidders that additional expenses will likely be associated with the proper maintenance of the land. These expenses can be as little as \$10 or as much as \$1,500. Please call our office prior to the auction if you have questions about possible control costs. The State Land Department does offer cost-share assistance, as do many County Weed Boards. Be an informed bidder and know beforehand what to expect.

Fuel Efficient Prototypes for the Year 2006



Hotrod



Runs on Methane



Convertible

You May Be A Farmer If:

(Author Unknown)

- Your dog rides in the truck more than your spouse.
- You have used baling wire to attach a license plate.
- You've used the same knife to make bull calves into steers and peel apples.
- You know "checkoff" is not a Russian diplomat.
- Your "other" vehicle is a Massey Ferguson.
- You've never thrown away a 5-gallon bucket.
- You can remember fertilizer rate, seed population, herbicide rate and yield on a farm you rented 10 years ago, but can't recall your spouse's birthday.

Public Access and Hunting on School Trust Land

You may have heard about two bills in the last legislature regarding hunting on school trust lands. One bill was to allow small game hunters to drive on land provided that they had permission from the land owner or the lessee.

However, nothing has changed on school trust lands. Vehicular access is not allowed on school trust lands and the lessee does not have the right to grant permission to drive on school trust lands. Allowing some people to drive on school trust lands while denying others permission would create hard feelings among the public and potentially lead to trespass and property damage and would be difficult to enforce. To protect the grass, reduce the risk of fire, protect the lessees' fences and to maintain a uniform access policy; all public access to school trust lands is strictly non-vehicular. The exception is the permit issued by the State Land Department for handicapped hunters.

The second law bars guides and outfitters from state lands "...unless the appropriate state agency permits or authorizes the guiding or outfitting...". Our standard operating procedure has been to allow non-vehicular access to school trust lands. Whether or not a hunter is accompanied by a guide or outfitter has not been used as criteria to deny access. Continuing with this policy means that we will continue to allow open access for hunting by everyone, including guides and outfitters - provided the access is non-vehicular.

If you have any questions or if a hunter insists on driving on school trust lands, please call Jerry at 328-2800.

Fall 2005 Surface Lease Auctions

(Times and locations of auctions are subject to change. Check official county papers, call 328-2800, or log on to www.land.state.nd.us to confirm dates, locations, and times prior to auction.)

Tracts not leased at the fall auctions will be unavailable for lease until they can be offered again at public auction in March 2006.

Adams County

Monday, October 17, 2005
1:00 pm MT
Courthouse, Community Room
Hettinger, ND

Benson County

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
1:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Minnewaukan, ND

Billings County

Thursday, October 6, 2005
11:00 am MT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Medora, ND

Bowman County

Friday, October 7, 2005
9:00 pm MT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Bowman, ND

Burke County

Tuesday, October 4, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Community Room
Bowbells, ND

Burleigh County

Friday, October 21, 2005
10:00 am CT
State Capitol, Pioneer Room
Bismarck, ND

Divide County

Tuesday, October 4, 2005
2:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Farmers Room
Crosby, ND

Dunn County

Tuesday, October 18, 2005
10:00 am MT
Courthouse, Commissioners Rm
Manning, ND

Eddy County

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
3:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
New Rockford, ND

Emmons County

Monday, October 24, 2005
3:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Linton, ND

Golden Valley County

Thursday, October 6, 2005
9:00 am MT
Ambulance Bldg, Meeting Room
Beach, ND

Grant County

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
10:00 am MT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Carson, ND

Hettinger County

Monday, October 17, 2005
10:00 am MT
Courthouse, Legion Room
Mott, ND

Kidder County

Thursday, October 20, 2005
1:30 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Steele, ND

Logan County

Monday, October 24, 2005
9:30 am CT
Courthouse, Meeting Room
Napoleon, ND

McHenry County

Monday, October 10, 2005
4:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Towner, ND

McIntosh County

Monday, October 24, 2005
11:30 am CT
Courthouse, Commissioners Rm
Ashley, ND

McKenzie County

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
2:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Meeting Room
Watford City, ND

McLean County

Monday, October 3, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Washburn, ND

Mercer County

Tuesday, October 18, 2005
2:00 pm MT
Law Enforcement Center
Meeting Room
Stanton, ND

Morton County

Thursday, October 20, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Commissioner Rm
Mandan, ND

Mountrail County

Monday, October 3, 2005
3:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Stanley, ND

Nelson County

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Conference Room
Lakota, ND

Oliver County

Friday, October 21, 2005
1:30 pm CT
Courthouse, Meeting Room
Center, ND

Pierce County

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
9:00 am CT
Courthouse, Community Room
Rugby, ND

Ramsey County

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
11:00 am CT
Comfort Inn, Breakfast Room
Devils Lake, ND

Rolette County

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
1:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Commissioners Rm
Rolla, ND

Sheridan County

Monday, October 10, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
McClusky, ND

Sioux County

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
2:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Commissioners Rm
Ft. Yates, ND

Slope County

Thursday, October 6, 2005
2:00 pm MT
Courthouse, Community Rm
Amidon, ND

Stark County

Monday, October 17, 2005
4:00 pm MT
Courthouse, Commissioners Rm
Dickinson, ND

Stutsman County

Thursday, October 13, 2005
1:00 pm CT
Law Enforcement Center
Meeting Room #1
Jamestown, ND

Towner County

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
3:30 pm CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Cando, ND

Ward County

Monday, October 10, 2005
2:00 pm CT
Courthouse, Ex-Servicemans Rm
Minot, ND

Wells County

Thursday, October 13, 2005
10:00 am CT
KTL Building, Meeting Room
Fessenden, ND

Williams County

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
10:00 am CT
Courthouse, Courtroom
Williston, ND



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From the Journal Of William Clark September 7, 1804



"A cold morning. Wind S.E.
Set out at daylight. We landed
after proceeding 5 1/2 miles,
near the foot of a round moun-



tain, which I saw yesterday, resembling a dome. Captain Lewis and myself walked up to the top, which forms a cone and is about 70 feet higher than the high lands around it. The base is about 300 feet. In descending this cupola, discovered a village of small animals that burrow in the ground. (Those animals are called by the French *petit chien*.)¹ Killed one, and caught one alive, by pouring a great quantity of water in his hole.

We attempted to dig to the beds of one of those animals. After digging 6 feet, found, by running a pole down, that we were not halfway to his lodge. The village of those animals covered about 4 acres of ground on a gradual descent of a hill, and contains great number of holes on the top of which those little animals sit erect, and make a whistling noise, and, when alarmed, step into their hole. We poured into one of the holes 5 barrels of water without filling it."

¹The *petit chien* is the prairie dog, though the interesting little beast is, of course, not a dog at all.

"The Journals of Lewis and Clark", John Bakeless, 1964

Planning To Retire or Reduce Your Herd?

As many of our long-time lessees know, we mail lease statements for 2006 in late November to be paid by December 31, 2005. If your plans for 2006 include reducing your herd or selling your livestock, you may want to consider not renewing leases for 2006. What this means is that you simply do not pay the statement when it arrives.

There is no penalty for not paying your lease and allowing it to expire; this will only cause the lease to come up for lease at public auction in the spring of 2006. If you have any questions on exercising this option, please call Jerry or Linda at 701-328-2800.

**Noxious Weed
Cost Share Deadline
September 30, 2005**